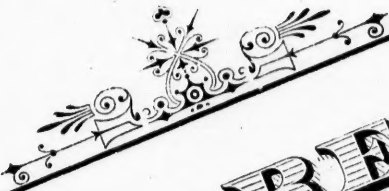


1880

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PROGRESS,

BY

HENRY BAKER,

OWEN SOUND, ONT.





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OWEN SOUND :

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INTRODUCTION.

SALMO C.

Jubilad a Dios toda la tierra.

- 2 Servid a Jehova, con alegria:
entrad delante de el con regocijo.
- 3 Sabed que Jehova, el es el Dios;
el nos hizo, y no nosotros a nosotros
pueblo suyo somos, y ovejas de su pasto.
- 4 Entrad por sus puertas con confesion
por sus patios con alabanza;
alabadle, bendecid a su nombre.
- 5 Porque Jehova es bueno, para
siempre es su misericordia
y hasta en generacion y generacion
Su verdad.

ENDLESS PROGRESS.

The faculties of the soul may be compared to the air in which we breathe and live, composed of two elements; one, the active principle of life, oxygen; the other, its opposite, the venomous ozone; combined they are neutralized and form our atmosphere, a subtle body, inoffensive to the eye, in continual motion, in a moment losing its equipoise, ascending into space, ceding its place to another portion which follows the same course; purifying itself from deadly vapors, so that we respire a pure and regenerating air.

So in man are found the principles of good and evil, morality and vice, growing together.

A man without education is not a man, he is a living being—an intelligent animal—matter in motion.

A nation of such men forms a multitude, chained to routine as if they were reduced to instinct; working, because they require bread; sleeping, because to-morrow they must work again for their daily food. Sad reality! But educate him, convert him from his evil ways, make him comprehend his mission on earth, teach him to exert himself, teach him to thirst after all that is beautiful and holy, that his soul may receive a flood of divine light, which alone is true life; convince him that the joys of Heaven will be to progress in knowledge and holiness throughout the countless ages of eternity.

Let us take a brief review of the march of progress during the past ages. India and China, primitive nations; grammar had its origin there, and language was adorned with all the coloring of a sky without a cloud.

They were a mythological people, believed in good and bad gods. Breathing the air of the tropics, their worship burst forth upon all the phenomena of living beings by which they were surrounded.

They deified the sun, the sea, the date bearing palm tree, and formed gods out of the bodies of elephants and the heads of eagles. For sanctuaries for these divinities, they hewed out entire mountains, where they worshipped amidst the perfume of flowers and the voluptuous songs of their maidens.

Such was the country over which Brahma, Siva and Vishnu extended their dominion and from whence arose the glorious standard of civilization.

It is certain they had grave errors, but how can we blame a people whose anxiety was always for progress but who were without experience.

From thence progress passed into a narrow valley which was isolated from the desert by two chains of mountains. Through this valley flowed a beneficent and mysterious river, which irrigated it and prepared it for

an abundant harvest. The Nile was the benevolent god of the Egyptians, and they worshipped it under the name of Horus.

Egyptian civilization took, in this fertile valley, a character very distinct from any that was then found in the East.

They invented geometry and found in it the key to the infinite vault of space, and its infinitude of worlds, and calculated with this element the duration of time.

After learning how to measure land they invented the beautiful art of Architecture, which differed vastly from the primitive style of the Indians and Chinese; the latter made mountains into pagodas; the Egyptians built temples, remarkable for their regularity, symmetry and strength, which they applied to everything they undertook. Science was for them an amulet which every generation bequeathed to the one that followed it, without correcting, without improving anything; that which was done by the Father was done by the Son, which thus became a dogma regulating the type of its sphinxes, obelisks and columns.

What remains of this people? The Pyramids, and the cities ruined by the hand of time; the skeletons of their temples; the splendor of Thebes, Memphis and Heliopolis is departed for ever.

The alphabet, geometry, astronomy, architecture, music, medical science, Egypt created and covered them with mystery.

The Medes and the Persians were formed from nomadic tribes in the valley of the Euphrates, on which arose the city of Babylon and the other famous city of Ninevah. Babylon acquired the monopoly of the commerce of the world, and keeping in her bosom her immense wealth, converted the oasis of the desert into the gardens of Semiramis.

Their ships sailed through the Mediterranean laden with gold from Bætia; they traded to Tyre, the first maritime city of the old world, where marble, amber, gold and steel were made into precious jewels, which they exchanged in Jerusalem for wheat, incense and perfumes, and for jaspers and topazes, in Palmyra. On the other side of the Mediterranean arose Carthage, the future rival of Tyre and Rome.

The Phœnicians traded all over the then known world, and became by their industry its benefactors, for commerce unites all nations—it is one of the knots which binds mankind, in order to conquer universal progress.

Greece, whose riches of intellect burst forth with all the splendor of the rising sun to cheer the heart of man, assumed a more spiritual character; Pythagoras seemed to possess all the knowledge acquired by anterior nations—all the wisdom of the Maji; the utterances of his soul seemed to burst from his lips like inspiration. The wisdom of Xenophon gave a great impulse to progress.

The great Socrates, the essence of virtue, profound eloquence, pure science, who, indefatigably followed all that was good, understood his vocation and followed it faithfully until death. The cap of hemlock shines like a resplendent guiding star for the lovers of truth and virtue.

Let us remember with gratitude those great and good men who en-

chant us with their writings, with their poetry and their works of art. May they be indelibly inscribed on the pages of the human heart.

Rome! proud Rome, who extended her dominion over nearly the whole of the then known world and changed the face of a large portion of it. Rome dictated laws to all the countries to which the Greeks had carried their language, their sciences and their philosophy; all the nations were attached to Rome by a chain which victory had nailed to the walls of the capitol; they existed only by the will of Rome and the passions of its chiefs, but they benefitted them by conferring a brilliant education.

Whenever they added a Province to their empire, that province prospered. To organize, to combine, to amalgamate, to rule over them, such was the genius of the Romans. They took from the Greeks their philosophy, their sciences and their eloquence; and in order that Rome might have its Latin philosophy and its eloquence, they blended Zeno with Epicurus; Aristotle with Plato; and from the Illiad and the Odyssey, they produced the Eneid; Cicero and Lucretius wrote in their eloquent language upon philosophy, but it was the philosophy of the Greeks. Rome will always be great; the Pandects of the Emperor Justimar and the dogma termed civil law, or the rights of all men in all countries, or as a celebrated writer says: The union of legislation, law raised to the summit of benevolence, the preface of the Gospel. Rome, the country of Virgil and Horace, will imbue us forever with a feeling of veneration and respect, for engraving it upon the immortal pages of her power and glory.

But where is the orient? Where are the Greeks and the Romans? Where are all the other nations which have lived on the surface of this globe? who advanced civilization with the aid of science—and if that civilization could not continue their existence in order that they might extend the progress they had achieved, why look upon them as its apostles?

Is it possible to realize this idea of progress without end; this holy fire which burns in our hearts without consuming them; this divine light which will deliver us from all our errors?

I know not, but I sometimes feel perplexed in mind, when I listen to the incessant and mysterious voice of progress without end, and behold the East in ruins; Greece and Rome in ruins also; I then cannot help thinking with a great philosopher of the present day "That the Almighty has regulated the love and knowledge of himself, which constitutes true progress, by laws as mathematical as the gravitation of the heavenly orbs; that time is co-ordinate with space; that each nation exists for a given time on an allotted portion of the earth, in order to accomplish there its especial work of civilization; and there only, in virtue of their temperament and race and the nature of their territory, when once their mission is fulfilled an insuperable obstacle occurs, and they pass away, and progress will be taken up by a new nation capable of expanding it."

The middle and dark ages, through the irruption of the Northern

barbarians, retarded for a short time the march of progress; but it recommenced with accelerated speed in the 15th century, aided by the discovery of the art of printing. The 16th and 17th centuries produced many good men, workers for the benefit of mankind, such as Descartes, Leibnitz, Bossuet, Fenelon, and many others.

The 18th century was the one in which took place the revolution of ancient ideas and institutions; the age of Pascal and Haygens for science; of Rosseau, Kant and Mirabeaux for philosophy. The 19th possesses the soul of progress; it is the age which is preparing society for the inevitable emancipation of man; granting him prerogatives he has never before enjoyed; making him master of his actions; giving him to understand the free exercise of his rights, and the means of education unknown until now.

The road is open. Science is infinite, like its Divine Author; work, and you may achieve conquests and triumphs equal to Newton, LaPlace, LeVerrier, and others; or the laurels which adorn the brows of Milton, Shakespeare, Byron, Schiller, Burns, Lamattine and Chateaubriand—men whose powerful intellect has filled us with astonishment and delight. The sun of progress will shine from between golden clouds with the magnificent train of religion, science, industry and commerce, spreading their light and powerful influence over all men.

Listen to the hum of industry in every land; the whistle of the steam engine traversing land and sea; electricity conveying information with the rapidity of thought; the telephone yet in its infancy,—all these gifts to man uniting the nations in the bonds of peace and fraternal affection.

The Scottish people may well be proud of, and glory in the name of Watt, that wonderful genius who improved—if not invented—the steam engine. The steam engine, as it appears at present, the genius of Watt having contrived miracles of simplicity and usefulness, appears almost as if endowed with intelligence. It regulates with perfect accuracy and uniformity the number of its strokes in a given time, and counts and records them moreover, to tell how much work it has done, as a clock records the beat of its pendulum; it regulates the quantity of steam admitted to work, the briskness of the fire, the supply of water to the boiler, the supply of coals to the fire; it opens and shuts its valves with absolute precision as to time and manner; it lubricates its joints; it takes out any air which may accidentally enter into parts that should be vacuum; and when anything goes wrong which it cannot itself rectify it warns its attendants by ringing a bell; yet with all these talents and qualities, when possessing the power of any number of horses, it is obedient to the hand of a child; its aliment is coal, wood and water; it consumes none while idle, is never tired and wants no sleep: it is not subject to malady when originally well-made; and only refuses to work when worn out with old age; it is equally active in all climates, and will do work of any kind; it is a water-pumper, a miner, a sailor, a cotton-spinner, a weaver, a blacksmith, a miller, in fact a true Jack and master-of-all-trades; and a small engine, called a

steam pony, may be seen dragging after it a regiment of soldiers on a railroad, or a thousand tons of merchandise with greater speed than that of our fastest coaches; it looks like the realization of the genii of the Eastern fable, whose supernatural powers were occasionally at the command of man. It has been computed that the steam power of the British Empire performs work equal to the labor of eight hundred millions of men.

May this glorious empire ever remain indissolubly united, and form the vanguard of the *grande armée* of progress throughout the globe !

THE SUN.

1. Celestial luminary, light of the day,
Of our lovely planet the Earth,
All it's beauties to man you display,
And give to it's wonders their birth.
2. The heavens, earth, sea and sky,
Are full of glory divine;
A Gospel sent down from on high,
With precepts, line upon line.
3. Oh, these are the pages revealed
By the eternal Almighty hand,
Which our blindness so long held concealed,
Enrapture our sight through the land.
4. We had strayed and wandered afar,
In ignorance and darkness of night;
No light from a bright guiding star,
To gladden our sad weary flight.
5. We stand with pale lips by the grave;
Behold our short lines fleeting by,
From the tomb their is none who can save,
There hushed is our last weary cry.
6. When yielding up life with a sigh,
'Midst friends in grief and in tears,
Despairingly questioning why,
Subject to death and to fears;

7. Then clasping the hope to our breast,
The thought, that whatever befall,
Obeys an eternal behest,
The bliss everlasting of all.
8. Oh, Father ! almighty and wise,
We hear through the sunlight thy voice,
Give light to our tear-blinded eyes,
Make our souls in our Saviour rejoice.

The Sun is the centre of our solar system, around which all the planets revolve at various distances and in different periods of time; its attracting power retains them in their orbits. It supplies them with light, heat and life.

Thus the sun is the source and whole support of all the activity, energy, life and force exerted on this and all the other planets belonging to our solar system. Coal, the vegetable production of countless centuries past, warms us with the rays of the sun, which shone in those long-past ages. Is not the food of man and animals produced by the direct action of the sun and elements? What beauty, what benign influence in the sun; daily he gives joy and life to animated nature; but its splendor and benefits are so continuous that we are too prone to look upon them without thanking our heavenly Father for his munificent gifts.

The magnitude of this glorious globe is so vast as to be beyond our power to realize. Its diameter is found to be 880,000 miles; its circumference 2,764,000 miles. Its surface contains more than twelve thousand times the number of square miles on our earth; its solid contents comprehend three hundred and fifty-six thousand billions of cubical miles, that is one million three hundred and fifty thousand times the number of solid miles which the terraqueous globe contains, so that if one million three hundred and fifty thousand globes as large as the earth were to be compacted into one globe it would only equal the size of the sun. To traverse every square mile of its surface at the rate of sixty miles a day would require more than one hundred millions of years to accomplish. The sun is more than five hundred times larger than all the planets and their satellites of our solar system put together.

If our astonishment is great at the magnitude of the sun, how much must it be increased when we consider that this glorious luminary is only one out of countless millions of similar globes existing in the infinitude of space.

Since the invention of the telescope we find the sun to consist of a solid body, composed of different materials, in which wonderful processes are going on for preparing and perpetuating that light and heat which gives life and happiness to the planets of the solar system. Through the telescope and sometimes by the naked eye, spots of enormous magnitude are seen upon its surface. At times they disappear altogether; what

they are is mere conjecture, but they clearly show that forces are in continual operation and producing the most astounding results, and are no doubt necessary for preserving the present constitution of the sun, enabling it to diffuse light, heat and life, and to act as the soul to the worlds that revolve around it.

Notwithstanding the innumerable benefits which the sun dispenses to all the inhabitants of the world it is a melancholy fact that the greater part of its population is still plunged in intellectual darkness, alienated from the knowledge and life of God through their ignorance.

THE MOON.

The Moon is the nearest of all the celestial bodies to the earth; the medium distance is calculated to be 237,000 miles. The diameter of the Moon is 2,180 miles. When we view the Moon through a good telescope we find it presents a very interesting aspect; mountains and planes, vast caves and solitary rocks, hills and plains of various shapes and extent; the mountainous regions are in other forms than those of the earth, although some resemble our Alps, Appenines and Andes; but in general the mountains exist in circular ranges, with plains of the same form; large and small plains are in great number; these form a peculiar feature, differing much from anything on our planet; there are also isolated mountains of the sugar loaf form; some of them are several miles in perpendicular altitude, somewhat resembling the Peak of Teneriffe; sometimes a central mountain arises from the centre of the circular plain. The lunar mountains are of all sizes from three hundred feet to five miles in height; cavities are seen from three miles in diameter up to fifty at their orifices, and decrease in breadth towards the bottom. The depth of some of them is nearly four miles.

How delightful are our moon-light nights—what a welcome friend, to fill up its utility to the inhabitants of this world would fill a volume; what a beautiful picture she makes of terrestrial objects, a scene which leads to contemplation, and her attractive agency in governing the ocean tides.

And when the Moon, refulgent orb of night,
Earth's beautious, faithful satellite,
Sheds o'er the plains her pale and silvery light,
The scenes so lovely, beautifully bright
That shepherds, youths and maidens all unite
In one sweet anthem of intense delight,
To praise their Maker for the heavenly light.

JUPITER.

This planet is of immense magnitude; it appears the most brilliant star in the heavens next to the planet Venus; its revolution around the sun is accomplished in eleven years ten months and seventeen days, and performs a circuit of three thousand millions of miles, at the rate of twenty nine thousand miles an hour. It is one thousand four hundred and thirteen times larger than the earth.

This planet is accompanied by four satellites.

To his satellites Jupiter will appear as a large and resplendant moon in their firmament, filling a considerable portion of the sky, and will in succession present to it all the diversified phases of the moon, a crescent, a gibbous phase and a full enlightened hemisphere.

The most striking appearance on the surface of this planet is a series of darkish stripes which run across its disk parallel to its equator, which are denominated belts.

The diameter of Jupiter is no less than eighty-nine thousand miles; its circumference two hundred and seventy-nine thousand miles; distance from the sun four hundred and ninety-five millions of miles.

THE PLANET SATURN.

Saturn takes nearly thirty years to perform its revolution round the sun, during which period it moves round a circumference of five thousand seven hundred millions of miles, at the rate of twenty-two thousand miles an hour. It presents a most magnificent appearance through the telescope. This planet has seven or eight satellites. Two brilliant rings surround this planet, presenting a sight altogether indescribable; interval between the planet and interior ring, nineteen thousand and ninety miles; interval between the two rings, seventeen hundred and ninety-one miles; thickness of the rings, one hundred miles. This double ring is evidently a solid body, as it throws a well defined shadow on the body of the planet. These rings contain on their surface more than twenty thousand millions of square miles; its distance from the sun is nine hundred and six millions of miles.

VENUS.

This beautiful planet has been distinguished both by the ancients and moderns as the morning and evening star. A lofty mountain, nineteen miles in height, is seen on this planet, through a telescope. Its distance from the sun is sixty-eight millions of miles; its diameter seven thousand eight hundred miles.

THE PLANET MARS.

This is the first of the superior planets, next to the Earth. It ranks in size among the smaller bodies of the solar system; its diameter is about four thousand two hundred miles; owing to the clearness of its atmosphere continents and oceans are distinctly seen. The land has a red hue, which gives the planet a ruddy appearance. The seas resemble our own. The revolution round its axis is made in twenty-four hours and forty minutes. The snow at the poles is distinctly seen, and is dissolved by the sun's rays, as on our planet. The distance of this planet from the sun is one hundred and forty-five millions of miles.

MERCURY.

This planet is the nearest to the sun, at least no planets nearer this luminary have yet been discovered. Its name signifies the swift messenger; the swiftest moving planet in the solar system, its rate of motion being one hundred and nine thousand and eight hundred miles an hour, or one thousand eight hundred and thirty miles a minute; its revolution round the sun in eighty-seven days. Its distance from the sun, thirty-seven millions of miles. Its diameter is three thousand two hundred miles; its circumference ten thousand and fifty-three miles.

GEORDIUM SIDUS, OR URANUS.

Geordium Sidus or Uranus was discovered by Herschel. Its magnitude is thirty-five thousand miles in diameter; distance from the sun, eighteen hundred millions of miles.

NEPTUNE.

Neptune, the last discovered planet of our solar system, is at the immense distance of about three thousand millions of miles. Its diameter is forty-two thousand miles.

COMETS.

Besides the planets there is a class of celestial bodies, throughout infinite space, to which have been given the name of comets. Little is known of the nature of these wonderful creations; we must conclude

that they perform important functions, ordained by our great Creator. Comets are distinguished from the planets and fixed stars by being usually attended by a long train of light, some of which have been found to exceed one hundred millions of miles in length. The luminous point, or head, is termed the nucleus. Stars of the sixteenth magnitude can be seen through the densest portion of the luminous part of the comet. The velocity of a comet when approaching the sun has been computed at one million of miles an hour. The number of comets has been estimated to be very great

INFINITUDE OF THE UNIVERSE.

“END THERE IS NONE, LO ALSO THERE IS NO BEGINNING.”

Light traverses space at a speed inconceivable to the mind of man, yet the light from the nearest fixed star or sun belonging to another stellar system requires ten years to reach our planet; and Lord Rosse's telescope, in Ireland, reveals stars many thousand times more distant. The same great telescope pursues these wondrous creations of the Almighty still deeper into space, and resolves the nebulae of the milky way into countless stellar systems; or suns, around which revolve planets in their orbits.

When we view this amazing creation, appearing to the naked eye like glittering diamonds; when we behold this infinite number of stellar systems; when we reflect upon their vast distance from our globe, their enormous magnitude, the countless number of worlds that belong to them, the velocity with which they revolve around their respective suns, (our own world revolving upon its axis at the rate of one thousand miles an hour, and sixty-eight thousand miles in the same time in its orbit round the sun), we are filled with amazement and with adoration and love for our Almighty Father.

Let us suppose a man given in charge of an angel, his ignorance removed, his mind purified, his heart the heart that loves, fears and hopes, filled with understanding, and then conducted by his angelic guide through space that he may behold the glory of his maker, leaving this earth and passing near our satellite the surprise of the man is intense on viewing its enchanting scenery and to him its strange inhabitants. Passing in proximity to the planet Mars, with its continents, seas and snow at the poles, so closely resembling his native planet, his surprise is turned into astonishment. The beautiful planet Saturn, with its magnificent rings revolving round the planet at a distance of twenty thousand miles, and its eight moons, fills his soul with rapture.

Leaving our solar system at the remote planet Neptune, they speed their way with the rapidity of thought for countless ages through saharas of silence. At length from a distance only to be reckoned in the arithmetic of heaven light beams upon them, a nebulous light; the light comes with

electric velocity to meet them. All at once a flood of glory bursts upon them from innumerable suns with their attendant planets and countless comets, pursuing with lightning speed their course through space on their mysterious missions. Again they pursue their course for centuries through interstellar space and again arrive amidst a galaxy of constellations, and the man exclaims "Angel, I am overwhelmed, I can go no further; take me back to the earth that I may expire at the foot of the cross, that through Christ I may enter into the joy of the Lord, of which also there is no end." And from the celestial orbs came a choral shout "END THERE IS NONE TO THE UNIVERSE OF GOD, AND LO ALSO THERE IS NO BEGINNING."

Will not astronomy in unveiling and displaying to mortal eyes the marvelous works of God, fill the soul with heavenly and unspeakable joy? Will we not view the universe as a holy, magnificent and infinite temple of the omnipotent, hallowed by His presence, filled with worshippers, resounding with the sweet melody of their gratitude and praise to their Almighty Father the Redeemer?

O, LORD! whom all those glorious orbs obey,
Beseech Thee, hear and grant our fervent prayer,
And save us from our sins and dark despair,
Which fill with tears and grief our earthly way,
And when temptations strong around us play,
And language foul with oaths profane the day,
Be Thou our shield and rock, our only stay,
Thou, the creator of those endless worlds we see;
Thou, who doth dwell in glory and in light;
And from whose throne springs everlasting right,
All that is good and beautiful to see,
For help and mercy, Lord, we pray to Thee
As helpless sinners on the bended knee.

THE SABBATH DAY.

Oh! the sweet melody that fills the air,
'Tis the church bell's call to prayer;
Toil and care have passed away,
This is the Holy Sabbath Day.
Open stands the wide church door,
Noiseless footsteps tread the floor;
Little children's faces fair,
Smile around us everywhere.
The church is full of life and light,
'Tis a lovely heavenly sight;
Solemn silence reigns o'er all,
On their knees the people fall;
In church they sing, in church they pray,
On this—the Holy Sabbath Day.

THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION.

In those beautiful oriental tales, you all recollect how the gorgeous imagination of the oriental authors delights to luxuriate upon the story of some young and bold adventurer, who wanders alone through the deep caverns of the earth, and there sees around him piles of golden ingots and coin, and massive plate, and burnished armour, and hillocks of pearls and rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds, of all of which the mystic talisman he unconsciously hears in his bosom has made him the lord. To the young student of our own dear Dominion, the discipline of a good education is that talisman; though far more potent than the one of oriental fable. Thus armed he may climb the muse's mount, or penetrate the deepest retreats of science. There he will find hoards more precious than countless gold or priceless gems. He has but to study and desire them intensely, and they become his own, for there are to be found the genii of arts, able to change the face of nature, and subdue the very elements; there dwell those pure and bright intelligences that sway the heart of man, and mould at their own pleasure the opinions and passions of nations. Mighty and proud spirits are they, who will not be commanded by wealth or power; but they bow themselves down before the studious and persevering, voluntarily confessing themselves to be the slaves of the lamp, and of him who is its master.

THE FOLLY OF REGRETTING THE BREVITY OF LIFE.

"Tell me," says Chrononotonthologos, an inhabitant of the planet Uranus, to the Secretary of the Academy of Sciences in the planet Saturn, at which he had recently arrived in a journey through the heavens 'tell me how many senses have the men on your globe.' 'We have seventy-two senses,' replied the academician, 'and we complain of the smallness of the number; our imagination goes far beyond our wants. What are seventy-two senses? and how pitiful a boundary, even for beings with such limited perceptions, to be cooped up within our rings and our eight moons. In spite of our curiosity, and in spite of as many passions as can result from six dozen senses, we find our time hanging very heavily, and cannot help sometimes yawning.' 'I can very well believe it,' says Chrononotonthologos, 'for, in our globe, we have very near one thousand senses, and yet with all these we find a kind of listless inquietude and vague desires, which are forever telling us that we are nothing, and that there are beings infinitely nearer perfection. I have travelled a good deal in the universe; I have seen many classes of mortals far beneath us, and many as much superior, but I never had the good fortune to find any who had not always more desires than real wants to occupy their life. And pray how long may you Saturnians live with your few senses,' continued the Uranian. 'Oh, but

a very short time indeed,' said the little man of Saturn, with a sigh. 'It is the same with us,' said the Uranian; 'we are forever complaining of the shortness of life.' 'Alas,' said the Saturnian, 'we live only some fifteen thousand years; you see well that this is to die almost as soon as we are born. Our existence is a point; our globe an atom. Scarcely have we begun to pick up a little knowledge, when death rushes in upon us before we can have acquired anything like experience. As for me, I cannot venture to think of any project, for, I feel myself but like a drop of water in the ocean, and especially now, when I look to you and to myself, I really feel quite ashamed of the ridiculous appearance I make in the universe.' 'If I did not know that you are a philosopher,' replied Chrononotonthologos, 'I should be afraid of distressing you when I tell you that with temperance in all things, our life is seven hundred times longer than yours. But what is even that, when we come to the last moment? To have lived a single day, and to have lived for countless ages amounts to the very same thing. I have been in countries where they live a thousand times longer than with us, and yet I have always found them murmuring just as we do ourselves. But you have seventy-two senses, and they must have told you something about your globe. How many properties has matter with you?' 'If you mean essential properties,' said the Saturnian, 'without which our globe could not exist, we count three hundred: extension, impenetrability, mobility, gravitation, divisibility and so forth.' 'That small number,' replied the gigantic traveller, 'may be sufficient for the views which the Creator must have had with respect to your narrow habitation. Your globe is little; its inhabitants are so to; you have few senses; your matter has few qualities; in all this Providence has suited you most happily to each other.' The academician was more and more astonished with everything the traveller told him. At length, after communicating to each other a little of what they knew, and a great deal of what they knew not, and reasoning as well and as ill as philosophers usually do, they resolved to set out together on a little tour of the universe."

DESCRIPTION OF PALMYRA BY A ROMAN TO A FRIEND IN ROME.

A little after noon of the fourth day passed in crossing the dreary desert which surrounds Palmyra, the grateful tidings reached my ears that towards the East there could now be seen the dark line which indicated our approach to the verdant track that surrounds the great city. Our own excited spirits were quickly imparted to our beasts, and we soon perceived the waving groves of palm trees which mark the site of Palmyra. It was long before we reached the city that we found ourselves landing, as it were, from a sea upon an island or continent, in a rich and thickly peopled country. The roads indicated an approach to a great capital. Elephants, camels and the dromedaries, which I had before seen only in the amphitheatres, frequent villas of the rich and luxurious

Palmyrians, to which they retreat from the turmoil and heat of the city, now threw a lovely charm on the scene. The brilliant costumes of the people we met, together with the rich housings of the animals they rode, nothing can exceed the splendor of those sumptuous palaces. Italy itself, has nothing that surpasses them. I was still entranced, as it were, when I was aroused by the shout of those who led the caravan, and who attained the summit of a rising ground, crying "Palmyra, Palmyra." I urged forward my steed, and in a moment the most wonderful prospect I ever beheld, I cannot except even Rome, burst upon my sight. Flanked by hills of considerable elevation on the East, the city filled the whole plain below, as far as the eye could reach, both towards the North and towards the South. This immense plain was one vast and boundless city. It seemed to me to be larger than Rome; yet I knew very well that it could not be, that it was not; and it was some time before I understood the true character of the scene before me, so as to separate the city from the country, and the country from the city, which here wonderfully interpenetrate each other, and so confound and deceive the observer. If the vastness of Palmyra astonished me, the inhabitants changed it into amazement and delight. Their urbanity, politeness, unbounded hospitality, and the wise government of their city are beyond all eulogy. I can only attribute their amiable manners to their religion, which differs widely from that of us Romans, with our multiplicity of gods. These people worship one god only, whom they call the supreme mind or creative, omnipresent and governing spirit. They worship in temples of great architectural beauty, which are never closed, day or night, and are always filled with devout worshippers.

The education of the youth of both sexes is most sedulously attended to; sickness alone is allowed as an excuse for non-attendance at the state colleges—paid by the state, and of the highest order. *Pater-familias* who neglect this paramount parental duty are severely punished; so that every child born to the state has an equal opportunity of receiving a good education. The state pays a body of eminent medical men, who attend to all cases where their services are required, and are bound to report every case, and their treatment of it, to the Minister of Public Health. Abject poverty is unknown, owing to the industry and temperance in all things of these excellent people.

A cleanliness exists throughout this vast city, quite inconceivable, which together with the wise sanitary laws, accounts for their great longevity.

The absence of slavery and a good education have obliterated pride, so that all classes associate together in the greatest harmony, most delightful to behold.

Happy people! they are governed by wise laws; they have abundance of everything. 'Tis thus, oh Cato, that governments ought to act—to be the joy of their people; they should love them as their children; a bad government which oppresses its citizens is like the plague—a scourge to the human race. I cannot express my delight at the magnificent

sight which presents itself all over this vast city, where everybody is in active employment. I do not see, as we do in Rome, idle men at every street corner, where we usually find a temple erected to the worship of Bacchus; or see them rushing about in search of news; questioning with illigitimate curiosity, strangers recently arrived.

This country, being surrounded and protected by the desert, renders a large standing army, which devours the vitals of a nation, unnecessary here. The young men are all trained to arms and thoroughly drilled, more for the sake of the elegant deportment and love of order which it gives them. They also perform the office of police, which is very light in so well governed a city. Every male child is compelled also to learn a mechanical trade; and the girls are taught everything that can render them useful and accomplished. Here, when they differ in their opinions they are so temperate in maintaining them that one would think that they were all agreed. How different it is in Rome, where party feeling is frequently so virulent that men of reason are disgusted.

Were I not a Roman, and devoted to my country with all its faults, I would wish to be a Palmyrian. Adieu, thy friend,

CORNELIUS SEVERUS.

THE GREAT OBSTACLE TO FREE TRADE, OR WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF KEEPING UP LARGE STANDING ARMIES.

Why! taxes upon everything that enters the mouth or covers the back, or is placed under foot; taxes upon everything which it is pleasant to see, hear, feel, smell, or taste; taxes upon warmth, light, or locomotion; taxes on everything upon earth and in the waters under the earth; on everything that comes from abroad or is grown at home; taxes on the raw material; taxes on every fresh value that is added to it by the industry of man; taxes on the sauce which pampers man's appetite and the drug that restores him to health; on the ermine which decorates the judge, and the rope which hangs the criminal; on the poor man's salt and the rich man's spice; on the nails of the coffin, and the ribbons of the bride; at bed or board, couchant or levant, we must pay. The school boy whips his taxed top; the beardless youth manages his taxed horse with a taxed bridle on a taxed road; and the dying patient peuring his taxed medicine into a taxed spoon, flings himself back on his taxed bed, and makes his will on taxed paper, and expires in the arms of his medical adviser—who has paid a heavy tax for the privilege of doctoring him. The property he leaves is then taxed. Besides the probate, large fees are demanded for burying him; his virtues are handed down to posterity on taxed marble, and he is then gathered to his fathers, to be taxed no more.

